or very low erucic acid (a long fatty acid chain), and zero or very low glucosinolate. Erucic acid is considered to affect the nutritional balance of the oil composition, and glucosinolate is harmful to all animals except the ruminating ones.

Recognising the need for developing canola quality of rapeseed i.e. with zero or low erucic acid and zero or low glucosinolate, the ICAR is according due priority to the development of rapeseed mustard varieties of '00 quality.

Brackish Water Prawn Culture

4240. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote Brackish Water Prawn Culture in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken in the direction;

(c) the schemes in hand with the Government at present; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

The Government of Orissa has informed that about 32,600 ha. brackish water area is suitable to promote prawn culture in the State.

(b) Some of the important steps taken are:—

(i) The State has set up 4 Brackish Water Fish Farmers' Development Agencies (BFDAs) in the coastal districts to provide technical and financial support to the prawn farmers, sanctioned under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Brackish water Fish Farm Development'.

(ii) A training centre has been set up at Paradeep to impart training on brackish water prawn farming to farmers.

(iii) To meet the demand for prawn seed, 3 prawn seed hatcheries with a total production capacity of 330 million prawn seed have been set up in the State.

(c) snd (d) Under the World Bank assisted Shrimp and Fish Culture Project under operation in Orissa, there is proposal to develop 1484 ha. of brackish water area at Jagatjore Banapada in Kendrapada District and Bieipur and Narendrapur in Bhadrak district. Besides, there is also a proposal to establish six medium capacity prawn seed hatcheries. The total estimated cost of the project in Orissa is about Rs. 4085 crores.

Expenditure Incurred on Sending Experts Abroad

4241. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agricultural Experts, scientists and officials sent abroad at Government cost for studies, conferences etc. during the last three years; and

(b) what is the amount of money spend on the foreign visits of these above mentioned persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Hosue.

Export of Cereals

4242. SHRI K.M. KHAN:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that experts in farming and milling are of the view that India could increase its export of cereals by 300 per cent in three years if given the incentives and inputs; and

(b) if so, what is the current position in relation to the export of cereals and what steps are being taken to realise this aim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The export of cereals especially rice, has registered significant growth during the last three years. To facilitate the exports, restrictions like minimum export price and quantitative ceilings, have been progressively relaxed.

Subsidy to Agricultural Sector

4243. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

2926 GIPMR/96-3A

(a) the amount of subsidy given by the Government of USA, UK, France, Holland and Germany to agricultural sector during any of the years of the nineties;

(b) to what extent the quantum of subsidies to agriculture by these countries would be reduced because of their signing of the GATT treaty of 1994; and

(c) the amount of subsidy given by Government of India to agriculture during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) According to the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, Producer Subsidy Equivalent as percentage of value of agricultural production for 1990 is 30% for USA and 48% for EEC countries (including UK, France, Holland and Germany).

(b) As a result of the GATT Agreement, developed countries would be required to reduce their domestic support to agriculture (with the exception of measures that have been exempted from reduction commitments) by 20% in 6 years. This obligation arises if the total Aggregate Measurement of Support (AMS) given in favour of agricultural producers exceeds 5% of the value of the total agricultural production of the country.

(c) The amount of subsidy given by the Government of India to agriculture sector including fertilisers and food was Rs. 8035 crore during 1991-92, Rs. 8596 crore during 1992-93 and Rs. 9600 crore (revised estimates) during 1993-94.

Stress on Cultivation of other Agricultural Crops *vis-a-vis* Tobacco

4244. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has stressed the need to reduce tobacco cultivation and concentrate more on other agricultural crops as reported in a section of the Press recently; and

(b) if so, what will be its impact on the export of tobacco and decline in foreign exchange earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foreign exchange earnings would be based on the exports of tobacco and tobacco products which are demand-based.

Gajendragadkar Committee Report

4245. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the Gajendragadkar Committee Report on the working of the ICAR, there have been further independent reviews and if so, the details thereof and corrective steps taken;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are five yearly reviews of ICAR institute and if so, the details thereof indicating the action taken thereon;

(c) whether there is any review of work done on technology transfer by Ministry of Agriculture or any other related institutes / co-ordinated projects; and

(d) whether the Research and Development results are being used by the industry and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) A ICAR Review Committee headed by Dr. G.V.K. Rao, looked into working of existing organisation infrastructure, personnel policy and functional role of ICAR. The recommendations of that Committee have been considered and some of these recommendations for the effective functioning of the organisation have been implemented and the remaining recommendations are under active consideration for implementation.

(b) There is a system of review of ICAR Institutes / Projects after completion of each five years duration which is done by Quinquennial Review Team (QRT).

After receiving the reports of the QRTs, these are examined, scruitinised, processed and